

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 11 and 12 are amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, Fig. 5A, and page 25, lines 7-16. Claims 2 and 3 are amended for better clarity. Claims 20-25 are added.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks Examiner Rosenberger for the courtesy extended to Applicant's representative, Mr. Luo, during the June 29, 2006 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of the priority document filed January 5, 2004.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,463,212 to Oshima et al. ("Oshima"); and rejects claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Oshima. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to recite that the irradiated region corresponding to an area on the object that is projected by the detecting light through the opening, the detecting light reflected from the irradiated region having an overlapping light that is reflected from the overlapping region of the irradiated region and a remaining detecting light that is reflected from the remaining irradiated region, the light receiving portion receiving through the opening the overlapping light that is reflected from the overlapping region, and the restricting portion preventing the remaining detecting light from reaching the light receiving portion. Claims 11 and 12 are amended to recite similar features. Oshima does not disclose or suggest these features.

In particular, Oshima discloses an infrared ray emission source 50 that excites fluorescent grains to emit light, and a light detection device 55 that receives the emitted light. See Figs. 10, 12 and 13, and col. 16, lines 16-42. However, Oshima does not disclose or suggest that the light detection device 51 receives the emission from the infrared ray emission source 50 that is reflected from an object. Also, Oshima does not disclose or suggest that a projection area of the emission from the infrared ray emission source 50 overlaps with a reflection area detectable by the light detection device 51. Oshima does not disclose or suggest a detecting light that has an overlighting light and a remaining detecting light, or a restricting portion that prevents the remaining detecting light from reaching a light receiving portion. Therefore, as discussed during the personal interview, Oshima does not disclose or suggest the irradiated region corresponding to an area on the object that is projected by the detecting light through the opening, the detecting light reflected from the irradiated region having an overlapping light that is reflected from the overlapping region of the irradiated region and a remaining detecting light that is reflected from the remaining irradiated region, the light receiving portion receiving through the opening the overlapping light that is reflected from the overlapping region, and the restricting portion preventing the remaining detecting light from reaching the light receiving portion, as recited in claims 1, 11 and 12.

For at least the above reason, Oshima does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1, 11 and 12, and claims 2-10 and 13-19 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-25 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claims 1 and 12, from which they respectfully depend, as well as for additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-25 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment Transmittal

Date: July 6, 2006

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